Numb. 23.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, July the 5th. 1681.

Jeſt. HARK ye, Hark ye, Mr. *Earneſt*, I'le tell you news?

Earn. Well! ſome bargain or other I warrant, come, what is't?

Jeſt. Now could I find in my heart to be ſurly and not tell you; I ſell Bargains! pray how many times have you catch'd me tripping in your life? Sir, I would have you to know, I ſcorn the Trade of Lying, if it were for nothing elſe, but that it makes a man look ſo whiggiſh.

Earn. Why Sir, I did not accuſe you; I always took you for a perſon of credit, but yet let me tell you, I heard the ſtory you told me about *Fitz. harris* his Trial contradicted.

Jeſt. Did you ſo? Well Sir, and do you not *know*, that the *Bromighams* will lye for *Conſcience-ſake*, and ſwear too, and forſwear to keep up their Reputation? but ſince they and you urge me, as the Parat ſaid, I'le tell you, it is ſo true, that if there be not already, there will be Oath made of it, and more than that, I'le tell you another ſtory which ſhall ſhew you what Conſcience theſe People make of Swearing, you may chuſe whether you will believe it or no, I care not a farthing, but tis true.

Earn. Come, let's hear it.

Jeſt. Well, ſo you ſhall. Two of the perſons who were ſummoned to be of the Jury for Mr. *Fitz-harris*, being it ſeems unſatisfied in an important Particular, reſorted to a Perſon of whole ability they had a good opinion to receive Satisfaction about a certain Scruple of *Conſcience*.

Earn. Well, what was the Doubt?

Jeſt. The Queſtion they thus ſtated to the Gentleman, 'Whether if there was ſufficient Evidence to prove Treaſon againſt the Priſoner, they might not for all that bring him in *Not-Guilty*?'

Earn. And what was the Solution pray?

Jeſt. Truly the Gentleman very honeſtly informed them, That if the Evidence was clear they ought to find him *Guilty*.

Earn. And did that ſatisfie their *Conſciences*?

Jeſt. Truly, No; for, then they further demanded, 'What is the danger or the Penalty if 'we ſhould notwithſtanding the Evidence, ac-'quit him by Verdict?'

Earn. Very well! and what was the Anſwer?

Jeſt. The Gentleman told them, 'Beſides the 'Penalties of the Law which he was not well ac-'quainted with there was no other that he knew 'of, but *Perjury and Damnation*, the loſs of their 'Souls, or ſo.

Earn. Some ſuch ſmall trifling matter only!

Jeſt. I aſſure you the Gentleman told them of it very ſeriouſly.

Earn. Then I hope that gave them ſatisfaction.

Jeſt. Why truly one would think, Hell and Damnation were enough in Conſcience to ſatisfie any reaſonable men; but they had ſtill another ſcruple notwithſtanding.

Earn. And what was that?

Jeſt. Truly, that it was a *National Concern*, and they could not tell what to do in it, and ſo they parted.

Earn. But did they ſerve upon the Jury?

Jeſt. No; for it ſeems the *National Concern* was not heavy enough to turn the Beam, and upon ſecond thoughts, they conſidered that there was nothing to be got by the bargain of going to the Devil to ſave a Nation, and ſo they came not upon the Jury.

Earn. What pity it was they were not acquainted with Dr. *Caſe*, the Proteſtant Jeſuit?

Jeſt. Whas *Caſe* do you mean? the famous *Caſe* is gone, as the fellow ſaid of *Enoch* that he never died, *mortuus eſt*.

Earn. I do not mean him, I mean the Sheriff's Dr. *Caſe*, he could have inſtructed them in the Art of Swearing contradictions and yet Swearing true; he has reconciled *Perjury* and *Conſcience*.

Jeſt. That's a brave Dr. indeed! then he bids the Devil kiſs where he ſat on *Saturday*, I warrant you.

Earn. The Devil! hee'l Caſe-harden a Conſcience, that if you ran a legion of Devils into it and all the Oaths in *Chriſtendom*, it will not burſt.

Jeſt. That's a noble Experiment; but how is it done?

Earn. By mixing a little *Jeſuits Powder* of Evaſion with any Oath, and then run your Conſcience with the fire of Zeal for the great ſervice of the King and Kingdom, and out comes a new Conſcience ſo hard, that no File of Perjury will touch it. You may ſwear that you hold it *unlawful to take up Arms againſt the King upon any pretence whatſoever*; and yet that you hold it lawful to take up Arms againſt him upon pretence that his Government is not Rightful; for by the King is meant his Rightful Government.

Jeſt. Well, the *Obſervator* has handled him already.

Jeſt. The beſt way of handling him would be as St. *Dunſtan* handled the Devils Noſe with a hot

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pair of Tongs: nay, if thoſe who call themſelves *the true Proteſtants* come to preach up *Perjury*; and teach men to go to the Devil by the Art of Evaſions, reſervations, and putting interpretations upon Oaths contrary to the literal ſence and meaning of the Lawgivers, the Devil and the Jeſuits may e'en take a Nap, or go hang themſelves for want of Employment; but pray what's your News you talk'd of?

Jeſt. Oh! Mr. *Shamm*'s come to Town again and turn'd *true Proteſtant*.

Earn. Nay, I thought ſo by their ſugaring the Oaths; what, he'l take them all?

Jeſt. Ay, he's like the Countrey Fellow that got drunk when he went to take the Engagement, he cries, *What's this all? ha' you no more Oaths to take?*

Earn. Well, and what's his buſineſs now?

Jeſt. Why, he lies at *Dick Janeways*, and when occaſion ſhall ſerve, he is to vilifie the Kings Evidence, ſtifle the belief of any Plot againſt the Kings ſacred Life and Government, by Diſſenters, and teach People how to write *Ignoramus*.

Earn. There is an old Proverb, and they ſay there is great truth in it, that *there is no ſmoak but there is ſome fire.* Sure if theſe People were ſo really tender of the preſervation of his Majeſties ſacred Life, they would not endeavour to ſlubber over any, the moſt ſlight Evidence in apperance, but find any Bill where the Perſon concerned was accuſed to bring the Kings life in danger and leave the ſifting of the Evidence to its proper Judges.

Jeſt. But Mr. *Sham* ſays they muſt not, don't you hear him ſay, *Heyns* came in voluntarily, thereby to take off his Evidence and credit, when the truth is, he was taken with a great deal of difficulty, hid under a bed, and denied by the *true Proteſtants* of the Houſe.

Earn. And what will they ſay to the *Proteſtant Joyner* with his Charging-Horſe, who would have ſhed his Papers under his friends breech, and beg'd ſo heartily for them, or to *Rouſe* Sir *T. Pl*'s *quondam Clerk*, who hid himſelf in a Preſs-Cupboard to Sham the Meſſenger, now they are in the Tower?

Jeſt. Why, it will be all Sham as ſure as you live; and care will be taken for Juries that ſhall find no ſuch thing as *Bills Vera*, which by the way looks as if they had a proſpect of their guilt, and thought to provide for their ſecurity.

Earn. But may not the Term, as well as Parliament, be removed to *Oxon*, and where are they then, ha?

Jeſt. Nay, let 'em conſider of it, and let us Quere about the matter.

Earn. No, for variety we'l follow *Dick Implement*'s Modiſh way, and print ſome Reſolves of the *Court of Conſcience*.

Jeſt. With all my heart, *apud Curiam Conſcient. tenet. tent' in Guild Hall*, &c.

Reſolved, That in a *National Concern*, to take any Oath, provided it be not in the *literal ſence*, ſhall not be accounted *Perjury* though a man break it, nor ſhall the Party be a *true Proteſtant Diſſenter* be in danger of Damnation, *vide* the *Diſpenſ.* Dr. *Sheriff's Caſe* at large.

Reſolved, That henceforward it ſhall be a mark of a *true Proteſtant*, to Sham any Deſign againſt the Government, if the perſon accuſed be a Diſſenter or Favourer of them, and that vilifying the Kings Evidence in ſuch a caſe ſhall be reputed no Crime, but a *National Concern*, and an acceptable ſervice to the King and Kingdom.

Reſolved, That no man be nominated to ſerve in any Office or of any Jury, who has not given Eminent teſtimonies of his good affection to the King and Government, by breaking the Laws, frequenting Conventicles, talking Sedition, or doing ſome ſuch publick Service.

Reſolved, That Lying ſhall be eſteemed lawful either in Print, or by word of mouth; provided it may either blaſt the Reputation of the Tories, or advance the Intereſt of the Godly, and that no man believe any of thoſe who call themſelves the *Loyal Party*, when they talk of *Deſigns*, *Intrigues* or Plots of Diſſenters, upon pain of being delivered over to be buffeted by Satan and his Journeyman *Smith*.

Reſolved, That none of thoſe Diſſenting Miniſters, who received ſeven or 800 *l. per annum* among them, as is well known to Sir *J. B.* and which Mr. *R. B.*---r refuſed, ſhall be accounted Popiſh Penſioners; or their not clamoring againſt Popery, while they received thoſe Dividends, be eſteemed a favouring of Popery.

Reſolved, That though any perſon does of a ſudden to qualifie himſelf for any Office take the Sacrament and Oaths, he ſhall not be thought *ambire Magiſtratum*, or that he is therefore ever the leſs a Diſſenter and Nonconformiſt.

Reſolved, That though Diſſenters can comply with any Oath, to ſerve a turn, and that therefore it is plain that their not conforming is either Obſtinacy or Humour, yet to put the Laws againſt them in practice, is perſecution of men for their Conſciences.

Reſolved, That all who by Addreſſes profeſs their fidelity to the King and Government be notwithſtanding accounted and called damnable *Tories*, and the Non-Addreſſors as true Proteſtants as thoſe who voted the Non-Addreſſes to the late King.

Reſolved, That no true Proteſtant ſhall be allowed to be a Traytor or Plotter againſt the King and Government though it be as clear as Chriſtal ſworn and proved upon him.

Vera copia Examinat' per me Rich. Implement Regiſtr' pro tempore.

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